



Now That's A Lot of Soles

Last November, the Soles for Souls organization, gave an inspiring presentation about building work skills through volunteer service. Soles for Souls is a Nashville based charity that collects shoes and distributes them worldwide to people in need. At the end of their talk, the Soles for Souls representative invited TRC to get involved in some way. Toni Micucci, Occupational Therapy Assistant, was so impressed by the program that she immediately contacted the organization to discuss the possibilities. It only took two months before the TBI Soles for Souls service project began at TRC. In March 2012, excited students gave presentations to students and staff, made posters, and placed Soles for Souls drop boxes around campus. Thanks to donations received, two months later the students delivered their first collection of 271 pairs of shoes to the Nashville warehouse. Students were invited to participate in the process of boxing their collection and preparing them for shipping. In addition to the hands on experience they received in processing the shoes, students also gained actual work and volunteer experience that is added to their résumé.

The TBI Soles for Souls project gives students an opportunity to perform therapeutic activities that develop memory strategies, planning skills, flexibility as well as job skills for future employment. This group activity also gets the entire TRC campus involved which promotes team work and community reintegration. As of September 12, the students have collected 740 pairs of shoes with a goal of 1000 pair before they leave for Christmas break.



When It Comes To Employment Commercial Cleaning Students Shine

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The Commercial Cleaning program has successfully secured two paid work positions with the Smyrna National Guard Military base, located one block from campus. TRC students, John Weese and Alex LaChapelle, work five days a week. Two days are split shifts and three days are part time hours. Since the location of the worksite is so close, they are able to get themselves to and from work and arrange for packed lunches to take with them.

Vivian Patterson, Commercial Cleaning Instructor was instrumental in locating and orchestrating the special work arrangement. Mrs. Patterson works to find possible employment connections for her current, former and future students. She continues to instruct and support these

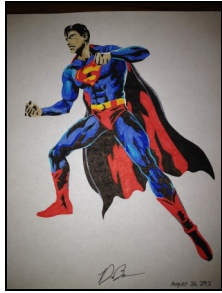
students as they experience the dynamics of gainful employment and self-sufficiency. Both John and Alex are reported to be doing great work at a professional level. Staff are very proud of their accomplishments. Mrs. Patterson has assisted five students in obtaining employment since July 6, 2012.



John & Alex pictured with Vivian Patterson and one of the base monitors in the building where John & Alex work.

Incredible Student Talent

Dominique Brooks is a 20 year old Food Service Program student from Cordova/Memphis. He started drawing at around the age of 13. Dominique says he is self taught and just decided he wanted to draw for recreation. Dominique normally sketches drawings by looking at a picture but also has free-hand drawings that he created on his own.



Dominique has a large portfolio of drawings he likes to share with his peers and staff. To test Dominique's skills, a student gave him a photograph of himself with his sister to sketch. The student was shocked at how beautiful it was when he finished. Everybody who has seen his drawings agrees that his talent is incredible.

Dominique recently used his talent to help his classmates in the Food Service Program. Using a printout that Rehab Assistant Cyndi Miller gave him, Dominique was able to draw a picture of a school bus. Carol Rouse, Food Service Instructor, took Dominique's drawing to a bakery and had it printed onto a sugar sheet. The bus was then transferred to the cake of the month the students baked for the "Back to School" theme. The cake looked great and tasted delicious! The Food Service Program looks forward to expounding on Dominique's artistic talent during his training at TRC but don't be surprised if you see some of his work in a gallery someday.



Dominique with the cake of the month (above) and one of his many drawings (on left).

Smart Shoppers



Students in the Transitional Life Skills program are learning about unit pricing and how to comparison shop in order to save money on their food bill. To ensure the students get real experience, the instructor takes the class to a local grocery store for this activity. Each student carries a clipboard and is assigned specifically targeted items to find and compare costs per unit. The students are asked to walk the entire aisle of the grocery store and investigate to identify the highest and lowest prices. At the end of the activity, they total up all the cost for the highest priced and lowest priced product in each item category. The students are finding that the lowest prices often make the difference in forty to fifty dollars of savings in their total bill. The students really enjoy this activity and have done well on this part of the curriculum.

Job Club has Great Turnout

The Job Club kick-off meeting held in July was a huge success and the turnout was better than expected. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to network and talk about employment in a group setting. Staff were proud and impressed with the student's questions and concerns about employment. The students have named the Job Club, "Eagle's Pride."

Two students won door prizes at the meeting and everyone enjoyed the goodies provided. Cathy Houser, UT - DRS Corporate Connections, shared information about how to prepare for participating in a job fair. The students were excited about the prospect of attending an actual event and were given that opportunity on August 17, when they went to Murfreesboro, TN to participate in the two job fairs, sponsored by Goodwill Industries and the State Employment Office. The next club meeting will discuss ADA issues when seeking employment. Recruitment for a second job club group is already underway so the students who missed the first one will be encouraged to sign up.



TRC Students Take Different Paths to Success



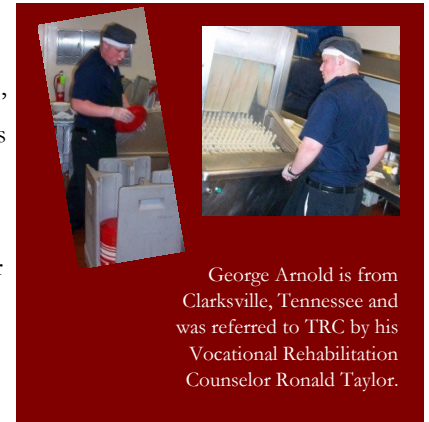
Raymond Terranova is from Kingsport, TN and was referred by his Vocational Rehabilitation counselor Barbara Brown.

Raymond Terranova was enrolled in the J.O.B.S. program at TRC as a “trial run” to see if he could be successful in a college environment. Not only did he successfully complete the J.O.B.S. program, Raymond has enrolled in his first semester at ETSU planning to major in Digital Media. This semester his schedule will consist of Visual Thinking, Intro to Psych, History, Critical Reading and Writing, and Comp Math. He will be carrying 13 credits and is very happy about his schedule. “Raymond will be living on campus so he can have the benefit of the whole college experience” stated his mother Laura Mitchell in a letter she wrote TRC program manager Teri Frazier. “I can’t thank you enough for everything you and the staff did for Raymond at TRC. That experience and the skills he learned has prepared him for life. I know at times he faced challenges, but your team stood by him and helped him work through it. The compassion and patience you and the staff give to the students is beyond amazing. I am so grateful that Raymond was given this opportunity.”

Raymond has a disability of Asperger’s Syndrome but it hasn’t slowed him down.

George Arnold graduated from the Food Service Training Program in April, 2012 with a certificate as a Food Preparation Worker and is now employed with Chartwell’s Dining.

Carol Rouse, Food Service Instructor, stated, “George made excellent progress in his program and performed very well in high demand situations working numerous catering events at TRC.” George received food service instruction in dining room functions, salad bar, bake shop, cook’s helper as well as the use of industrial dish room. George stated that he would like to perform his internship hours in his home community so he and Cyndi Miller, Food Service Assistant Instructor, partnered together and found the opportunity for George at the Austin Peay University cafeteria in Clarksville, Tennessee. Mrs. Miller established an internship opportunity for George with Chartwell’s Food Service Management company there at the facility. This opportunity enabled George to gain additional experience outside the classroom and TRC setting where he was able to practice skills learned at TRC. The Austin Peay University Cafeteria supervisor Jim Shadburne was so impressed with George’s abilities and work ethics that he decided to hire him.



George Arnold is from Clarksville, Tennessee and was referred to TRC by his Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Ronald Taylor.

George began work on March 1, 2012 and is working full time in the dish room making \$7.50 per hour. “George impressed me with his willingness to work hard; all of the food service staff really like George. George has been a wonderful addition to our staff here at Austin Peay. He is always on time, works hard while he is on the clock and always exhibits a great attitude. We are lucky to have him work here” stated Mr. Shadburne.

Carol Rouse, Food Service Instructor says, “George has a good work ethic, and demonstrates good staff relations. He will be a dedicated employee and a true asset to the Austin Peay University Cafeteria.”



Johnny Hines was referred to the Commercial Cleaning Program by his Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor James Lauderdale in Nashville. He graduated from the Commercial Cleaning Program April 27, 2012. During his stay at TRC, Johnny was the student leader for his class. He participated in Drivers’ Education, Transitional Living Skill classes, and Rec Therapy. Johnny could not wait to graduate and get a job. He used his TRC training and some initiative to begin looking for employment prior to graduation and was successful in his efforts.

Johnny works at the Department of Safety as a Commercial Cleaner. His job duties involve cleaning/buffing/stripping/waxing floors, cleaning bathrooms and windows and trash removal. He is working 22 hours a week. He has made new friends on his job and his co-workers and friends call him “Big Mike.” He explained that he likes his supervisor and she is very helpful and respectful towards him and his co-workers. Johnny said he is never quitting his job. He is going to show his boss just what a good worker he is, and how dependable he will be. His employer stated, “Johnny is such a hard worker, and so pleasant. He is enthusiastic, and is always smiling.” Staff at TRC remember that big smile and how Johnny always wanted to do the best he could with his training program. Staff take pride in watching Johnny succeed in meeting his goals on his own terms.

**A program of the
Tennessee Department of Human Services
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Vocational Rehabilitation**

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TRC Welcomes New Staff

**Eric Simmons, LPN2
Abby Dias, LPN2
Sherri Porter, Secretary
Michael Smith, Security
Kimberly Amick, Speech Therapy
Martine McGroarty, Speech Therapy**

VISIT US ON THE WEB

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/trc.html>

TRC has established a "Students First" philosophy. Our core values revolve around meeting our students' needs and are clearly identified as follows:

Students First

*Because the student—has a need
We have a job to do
Because the student—has a choice
We must be a better choice
Because the student—has sensibilities
We must be considerate
Because the student—has an urgency
We must be efficient
Because the student—is unique
We must be flexible
Because the student—has high expectations
We must excel
Because the student—has influence
We have the hope of more customers
Because the student—We Exist!*



Staff would like to congratulate Karen Carothers in her promotion as Superintendent of the Smyrna TRC. Ms. Carothers has served as Assistant Superintendent of Client Services for the past two years. We are very excited to have Ms. Carothers as our new Superintendent and we look forward to her new ideas and the exciting possibilities that lie ahead for TRC.

We would like to thank Richard Marker for being the student speaker at the Graduation Ceremony which took place on August 31, 2012. Richard graduated from the Traumatic Brain Injury Program and will be entering the Auto Detail/Maintenance Program.

Students and staff were excited to have Assistant Commissioner Cherrell Campbell-Street attend the ceremony as guest speaker. She is an amazing speaker and greatly inspired and encouraged the students.

Graduating students not only complete their training programs, they also learn valuable independent living skills that will help them be more independent throughout their lives.



Please join us for the next Graduation Ceremony Friday, December 14, 2012.



Jean Johnson, Rehabilitation Instructor in Vision Impairment Services at TRC, had the pleasure of presenting at the state convention of the Tennessee Council of the Blind, which took place in Nashville on Saturday, August 25, 2012. She was part of an employment panel. Jean was able to describe how she performs her job duties as a person who is blind and the accommodations that assist her in her work. She was also able to share what TRC has to offer people who are blind or visually impaired throughout the state. Prior to the panel discussion, Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Cherrell Campbell-Street and Director of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Patti Bell-Norris, also spoke to the audience of approximately 80 attendees. Following the morning program, Mrs. Johnson set up a table in the exhibit hall where she disseminated written information about TRC and Vision Impairment Services and spoke with prospective TRC clients.